

Mason House
Analoetan Island
District of Columbia

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Delos H. Smith, District Officer
1707 Eye St. N. W.; Washington, D.C.

Mason House (111-111111)
Analoetan Id., D. C.
View Looking N. E.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Washington, D. C. District
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

ANALOSTAN ISLAND
Potomac River, District of Columbia

John Mason, fourth son of George Mason of Gunston Hall and the third and last of the Mason owners of Analostan, was born in the Spring of 1766.* When he was twenty-two, his father, writing to Robert Carter of Nominy, in April, 1788, refers to "my son John, who is going to settle in Bordeaux, having lately entered into partnership with two Maryland gentlemen (Messrs. Joseph and James Fenwick) who about a year or two ago established a house there . . . there being no other American house in Bordeaux they flatter themselves with considerable encouragement and preference."*** The firm then became Fenwick, Mason and Company, their business largely the importation of American tobacco. Washington at the beginning of his presidency ordered, from New York, wines from them, and at once after the French Revolution young John Mason collected and forwarded to him a bundle of pamphlets, "the earliest testimonies," he calls them, "of the dawn of Liberty & Rights of Man on this Side of the Atlantic."**** Several letters written by George Mason to his son in France, in 1788, 1789, 1790 and 1791, have survived.

The elder Mason kept his son informed of all that concerned the lands that were to fall to him. In September 1790, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, on the day after a visit with Washington at Mount Vernon, stopped over with George Mason and drew him, somewhat against his will, into conversation on the subject of the seat of government. He showed, wrote Jefferson, a decided preference for Georgetown, mentioning that it was "at the junction of the upper and lower navigation of the Potomac where the commodities must be transferred into other vessels: (and here he was confident that no vessel could be contrived which could pass the upper shoals and live in the wide waters below his island).***** At about the same time (October, 1790) Robert Peter and others, in their proposition regarding the sale of their lands for the Federal City, spoke of Georgetown in its then state as not being a good winter harbor for ships, but the subscribers cannot think it very material as undoubtedly the lower part of Mason's Island can be made a place for security for any number of ships that might winter there.***** In a letter written to his son in France, in April, 1791, George Mason tells of the President having laid off

* Life of George Mason, by Rowland, v.1, p.129.

** Life of George Mason, by Rowland, v.2, p.211.

*** Papers of George Washington, v.243, Mss. Div., Library of Congress.

**** Standard History of the City of Washington, by William Tindall (1914), pp.42-43.

***** U. S. vs Martin F. Morris et al., v.7, p.2160.

off the ten-mile-square district for the seat of government, and remarks that about two thousand acres of his lands were to be included therein.* Analostan Island by the cession of the territory for the District of Columbia ceased to be a part of Maryland, and has ever since continued to belong to the District.

Young Mason's health had not been good in Bordeaux and in the summer of 1791 he returned to America. He was so engaged in the affairs of his firm, however, that he did not reach Gunston Hall until the Christmas holidays. In January, 1792, he was again away on business, when his father wrote to him at Philadelphia on the subject of a bridge that had been proposed over the Potomac at Georgetown, saying that Mr. Stoddert believed its effects would be favorable to a town on Mason's land on the Virginia shore.** The last letter of George Mason that has come down to us was written August 20, 1792, and addressed to his son John at Georgetown. In this letter he tells of an application to the Virginia Assembly, intended to be made by the Georgetown people, "for their projected bridge over Potomac River, opposite, or nearly opposite to George Town, and for a condemnation of land to join the Southern abutment to, and for a road, if necessary." "You should take care", he warns, "to be fully prepared in time with a true plan and representation of the situation of the place as connected both with George Town and the Federal city, the comparative width of a bridge in each of the places (that proposed by them above and that to and from the Island) . . . And I think it would be of great importance if by writing Mr. L'Enfant you could procure his opinion, with his reasons, in favor of a bridge at the Island, not letting the George Town people know that you make any such application."*** Many decades were indeed to pass before ever there was a bridge over the Potomac at Georgetown, and Mason's ferry from the town to the Virginia shore was still to hold an almost undisputed monopoly in transportation there.

Seven weeks after writing the above letter George Mason died (Oct. 7, 1792) at "Gunston Hall."**** His son thereupon came into the large estate left him under the will, his lands including the Island and the Virginia shore opposite it. He continued for years to be a prosperous merchant, his place of business in Georgetown. He is spoken of by contemporaries as a man of large wealth. From the fact that I have found no mention of a house, or any sort of improvement, on Analostan Island prior to his ownership, and that at least

* Life of George Mason, by Rowland, v.2, p.334.

** Life of George Mason, by Rowland, v.2, p.353.

*** Life of George Mason, by Rowland, v.2, p.360.

**** Life of George Mason, by Rowland, v.2, p.365.

as early as 1798 he was entertaining distinguished guests there, it is probably that he began construction of the house soon after his father's death. It is my idea also that in the elaborate laying out of the grounds of this island estate John Mason had in mind the estates of similar size which he had seen during his residence and travels in France in the few preceding years.

A granddaughter of John Mason states that the island was "his residence during a portion of every year," that he spent "the summers on the Island, and the winters in Georgetown or Alexandria, and entertaining always and everywhere with the true Virginia hospitality that made his home the center of attraction for a widely extended circle."* The Georgetown mansion of brick is still standing, and is pictured on a recent historical map gotten out by the Society of Colonial Dames. The island residence is sometimes referred to as a brick mansion. Much can probably be determined as to its size and construction by examination of the ruins, as soon as the ground on the island is fit for exploration. David Baillie Warden, who was a guest at Annapolis in 1811, describes the house as "of a simple and neat form," but it is to be borne in mind that Warden lived in Paris and his standards of comparison were consequently not those of an American. He speaks of a "summer-house" as also one of the attractions of the island, such house perhaps being something like a pavilion.** Miss Virginia Mason's statement that the island was the summer residence of her grandfather seems borne out by the fact that her father, one of the sons of John Mason, James Henry Mason, was born in November, 1798, in Georgetown,*** also that George Washington, writing to John Mason, in January, 1798, addressed his letter to Georgetown,****, these facts indicating that in the winter months the family were living in the town.

The estate was probably developed with the enthusiasm and vigor of a young man who was not only the heir to a fortune, but a very successful business one, moreover, who had brought thither a bride, Anna Maria Murray, daughter of Dr. James Murray of Annapolis.*****

* The public Life and Diplomatic Correspondence of James M. Mason, by Virginia Mason (1906), pp. 8-9.

** A Chorographical and Statistical Description of the District of Columbia by David Baillie Warden, Paris, 1816, pp. 137-138.

***The Public Life . . of James M. Mason, as above, p. 9.

**** Papers of George Washington, v. 286, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

***** A full-length portrait of her and her sister, painted by Bouchet in 1794, is reproduced in "Social Life of the Early Republic," by Anne Hollingsworth Wharton, opposite p. 86.

At all events, in 1798, six years after his father's death, John Mason entertained on Analostan Island, Louis Philippe, then Duke of Orleans. The latter is reported to have said that "he had never seen a more elegant entertainment," which statement, while it may be discounted as the compliment of a visiting Frenchman, no doubt indicates that the Masons were living very handsomely.*

Regarding the residence of General Mason, Warden has this to say: "The highest eminence, on which the house stands, is fifty feet above the level of the river . . . I can never forget how delighted I was with my first visit to this land. The amiable ladies whom I had the pleasure to accompany, left their carriage at Georgetown, and we walked to the mansion-house under a delicious shade. The blossoms of the cherry, apple, and peach trees, of the hawthorn and aromatic shrubs, filled the air with their fragrance. We found Mrs. M. at home, in the midst of her family, composed of nine children. Twin boys, of a healthy mien, and so like each other as scarcely to be distinguished, were tumbling on the carpet of the saloon, full of joy and merriment, . . . The house, of a simple and neat form, is situated near that side of the island which commands a view of the Potomac, the President's House, Capitol, and other buildings. The garden, the aides of which are washed by the waters of the river, is ornamented with a variety of trees and shrubs, and, in the midst, there is a lawn covered with a beautiful verdure."

"In July, 1811," continues the writer, "Mrs. M. gave a rural dance to the friends and acquaintances of her son, at the eve of his departure for France. Though the weather had been excessively warm during the day, in the evening there was a delicious breeze. The young people danced on the lawn. Tea, coffee, cakes, fresh and preserved fruits, were presented to the guests, who sat or walked about conversing, or silently admiring the dance under the shade of trees, illuminated by lamps, which were half obscured by the bright light of the moon. The summer-house is shaded by oak and linden-trees, the coolness and tranquility of which invite to contemplation. The refreshing breezes of the Potomac, and the gentle murmuring of its waters against the rocks, the warbling of birds, and the mournful aspect of weeping-willows, inspire a thousand various sensations. What a delicious shade - "*Dulcere sollicitae jucunda oblivia vitae.*"

"The view from this spot is delightful. It embraces the picturesque banks of the Potomac, a portion of the city, and an expanse of water, of which the bridge (the Long Bridge, opened in 1804)** terminates the view. Numerous vessels ply backwards and

* A portrait of Old Georgetown, by Grace Dunlop Ecker (1933), p.38.

** A History of the National Capital, by W. B. Bryan, v.1, p.492.

forwards to animate the scene. Directing the eye over a corner of the garden, we perceive the sail only, as if by enchantment, gliding through the trees. A few feet below the summer-house the rocks afford seats, where those who are fond of fishing may indulge in this amusement. From the portico on the opposite side of the house, Georgetown, Calorama, the beautiful seat of Joel Barlow, Esq. and the adjacent finely wooded hills, appear through a vista. To the left there is a prospect of the fields and woods on the opposite banks of the river. Every part of the island is romantic. Hawthorn and cedar hedges, and an improved cultivation, indicate taste and agricultural knowledge. By means of an hydraulic machine, water may be easily raised from the river, and conducted by pipes to every part of the surface.

"This island has a great variety of trees and shrubs, owing to the seeds brought by the stream from mountainous regions - different species of oak, walnut, mulberry, poplar, locust, ash, willow, the pawpaw and spindle tree, or burning-bush.

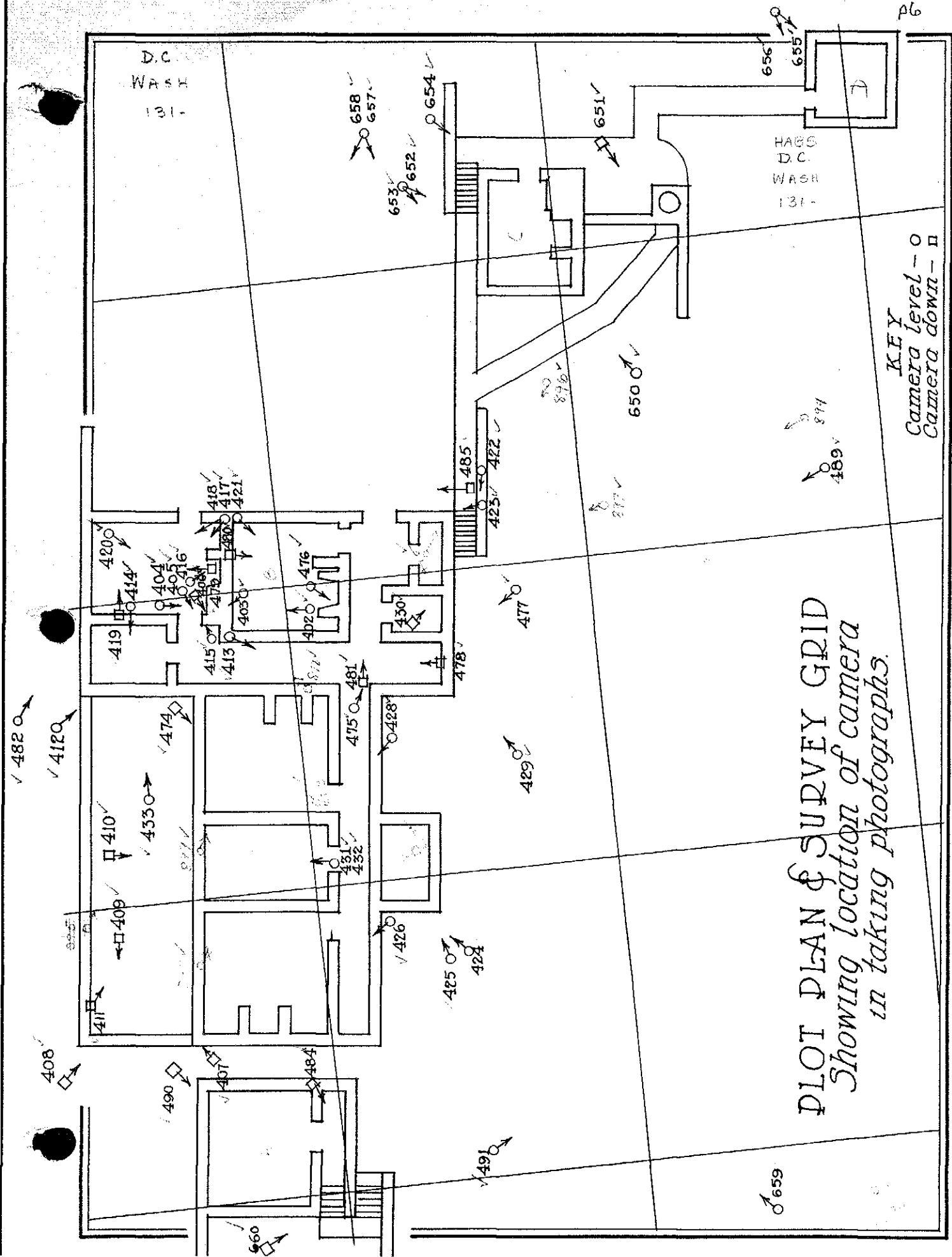
"At the summer-house there is a white walnut of about a foot in diameter, perforated by a grape vine of three inches in circumference, which has been squeezed to death by the growth of the tree.

"Near the causey there is a species of eglantine, thirty feet in length, supported by an ancient tree.

The above extracts contain all mentioned by Warden of any sort of structures on the island. He describes the trees, plants and flowers native to the place, as well as the birds, reptiles, etc. "The poison-oak, or poison-vine, grows here, and entwines itself among trees . . . The poison-ash, or fringe tree, grows at the extremity of the island, near the causey. A foreign plant of this species was sent to General Mason as a curiosity, and it was recognized by a farmer, unacquainted with botany, to be the same as that which inhabits the American woods. The Virginia jessamine grows in all parts of the island, entwining itself among trees and bushes."

From Report by:

Charles Cochran



Descriptive Data

On

THE MASON HOUSE

The grey and stately ruin which crowns the highest ridge of Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Island was once the home of General John Mason. Built in the last decade of the eighteenth century, this building, along with Thomas Jefferson's Virginia State Capitol, is important in that it is one of the first houses erected for other than ecclesiastical purposes to reflect the temple-structure influence. This architectural style is generally known as the Classical Revival, and it is interesting to note that this building lends further credence to the statement that our country led in the acceptance and development of the classical influence.

Who the architect was for this building is not known. Dr. William Thornton, who won the Capitol Competition in 1793, James Hoban, architect for the State House at Charleston, South Carolina, and later the White House, Purcell and Harbaugh were all practicing in this locality during the last years of the century, and any one may have been responsible for this work. With sufficient time for research into this question, it is probable that by drawing comparisons between details of the Mason House and those of buildings attributed to the above mentioned architects one might be selected as the author of its design.

Robert King's "Map of the City of Washington," published in 1818 (Photo #1) furnishes us with a very interesting layout of the landscape development of the island. Although there is no assurance that the planting plan is correct in every detail, the remnants of the planting and topography as they exist today substantiate in principle the layout shown. It is safe, however, to assume the horticultural interests were well studied and attended, for General Mason was himself devoted to the development of both foreign flora and fauna and had an able English gardener in charge of the estate for many years.

It is interesting to note that on this map (Photo #1) the plan of the mansion is shown as symmetrical - contrary to the actual plan but consistent with what is believed to have been the architect's original conception. The road from the causeway on the northern end of the island seems to lead to some sort of a landing, and it is quite possible that it was here the boat house belonging to the ferry service stood. An old painting of this building by M. Weyl remains to us and helps to verify the orientation of this building (Photo #2). Where the "lovely summer house" referred to in letters of the Mason family stood is a subject for conjecture. It is probable however, that it occupied a position at the extreme southern end on the axis of the garden walk.

Incomplete though this map may be, it provides us with a very tangible picture of this Classical Eden.

The orientation of the various structures is characteristic of many fine Virginia plantations and justifiably reserves the greatest eminence for the Mansion. (Drawing #3). The only known publication attempting to record this group - "Georgian Architecture in the District of Columbia" by H. F. Cunningham, J. A. Younger, and J. Wilmer Smith - shows four minor dependencies to the west of the great house. See Photos #4, 5, 6, 7, Although a systematic search was made for these structures, only three were found. In view of the numerous discrepancies concerning the Mason House in this book, it is quite possible only three dependencies existed here. This survey uncovered another major dependency to the east which is not shown on Photo #2 but is an important contribution to the picturization of the scheme as originally conceived. So few pertinent artifacts were excavated in these units it is difficult to arrive at a logical use to which each building was devoted (Photos #9 and 10).

In the building labeled as Quarters or Office, a fireplace (and remnants of what appears to be a Dutch Oven) are provided, so it is obvious it was intended to be occupied. The fact that it had one and one-half or two stories above a full basement substantiates this theory.

The building marked "Storage" apparently had but one floor and no heating facilities and so obviously was not intended for occupancy.

All that remains of the building identified as an Ice House is a deep stone cellar without facile access. This identification, therefore, seems logical.

The well, walks, and retaining walls shown on Drawing #1 are equally obvious.

The basement of the structure to the east identified as Dependency "A" must have been used at one time as a storage room for fuel, for a two-inch layer of coal dust was found at the floor level of the inner room. This might ordinarily connote that the basement of this building was used as a storage room some time after the first fire, but since coal has been mined in this country since 1750 it is quite possible it was originally intended for that purpose. The isolation of this chamber from the other rooms in the main building helps to support such a theory. The discovery of much decorative painted plaster presents material for many interesting conjectures as to the use of that first floor.

To clarify the future association of the dependency to the east and the main building, it seems in order to propound here a theory regarding the original conception of the Mansion. To understand the theory advanced it is necessary to accept the fact that one of the primary underlying principles of the Classic Revival was symmetry. It is upon this principle that the theory is advanced that this building was originally conceived as symmetrical and that a duplicate of the west wing of the main building was

intended to be eventually built over the present eastern dependency and the east walls of both early and later features to be consolidated (See Drawing #3). The absence of a water table or basement windows at east end of Mansion (See Photo #11), the continuous passages in northeast corner of basement, and the discovery of much extra carved stone trim support this assumption. The discovery among this trim of a piece of impost cap return, corresponding to those now in place on north corners of west bay, presents another piece of pertinent evidence. Still another feature is the lack of symmetry of the central unit, which can be corrected only by the addition of this other wing (See Drawing #3). However, examination of the masonry in both units shows no signs of patching or evidence that other walls ever bonded into either of the present structures.

It is probably in order at this point to state that those drawings in the H.A.B.S. records showing certain parts of the Mansion restored are not the result of the exhaustive research necessary to the successful restoration of such a building. They are, however, reasonably accurate and all details find their origin in the architectural remains, early photographs, and the delineator's familiarity with this style of architecture.

The reproductions from "Georgian Architecture of the District of Columbia" previously referred to are included in this report in order that all information to hand on this house may be made available to the student, and the discrepant features are called to attention not in a spirit of disparagement but in an effort to

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present a true picture of the house. These drawings, compiled in 1914, while presenting some valuable information relative to the architecture, are in other instances obviously conjectural restorations, and the evidence presented in both records should be carefully weighed before accepting either conclusion. Throughout this report comparisons will be constantly drawn between the two sets of records.

Referring to basement floor plans (Photo #5), "Georgian Architecture" shows the east chimney foundation in wrong position (Photo #12), no basement windows in south or southeast walls, and no entrance to wine cellar or piercings in its walls (Photo #13); in the west wing, no partition between small chambers in northwest corner (Photo #14); in southwest corner rooms no fireplace is shown (Photo #15), the exterior door is shown as a window (Photo #16), and a door instead of window is shown leading to central room (Photo #17); no fireplace or chimney foundation in central room (Photo #14), no windows with splayed jambs (Photo #18, 19, and 20) nor are sizes in central section correct, no doorway to room in northwest corner (Photo #21), wrong position for door to room in southeast corner (Photo #22 and 23) and a stairway in passageway (Photo #22). This plan also shows the later terrace addition to the southeast as an integral and original part of plan (Photo #24 and 25). With the exception of presence of the stairway, all these other details of plan are shown correctly

on Drawing #2. There are no marks on walls or floor to support the one-time presence of the stairway as shown (in such a position it would interfere with exterior door located above on first floor). In fact evidence placing the original stairway at the opposite end of the passageway is present in the ruins and is shown on Drawing #8, Section BB, and Photos #26 and 27.

No trace of wood jambs appears on entrances to any rooms in central portion, but it is probable that the so-called brick vaulted wine cellar (Photo #13) had a heavy batten door flanked on each side of jambs by small grilled openings.

By tracing the outline of the whitewash on the rear wall of this room, it was possible to follow the inside line of the brick vaulting - part of which was still in place. This is shown on Drawing #9 and Photos #56 and 57. The openings in the vault walls were possibly for purposes of ventilation.

No trace of finished floor other than stone sills remains, and it is believed that these rooms have always had dirt floors (Photo # 28). All door jambs in west wing, however, do show traces on jamb where four and one-half inch wood frames set six inches from face of wall on room side prevented the masonry from receiving whitewash. In this section all the floors except rooms in southeast corner have had herringbone patterned brick floors, although in many places these floors have been patched (Photos #29, 30, and 31).

The hole shown in floor at the northeast corner is believed to

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have accommodated the center post for a stairway at this end.

The partition indicated on Section B-B, Drawing #8, is necessary to permit the first floor to be kept warm and dry.

The composite wall projecting into central room was possibly included to support a fireplace located on center of the room above (Photo #14).

It seems quite possible that both central and southwest rooms were used for cooking and one possibly was used as a servant's dining room. This would justify the double access to the Dutch Oven (Photos #32, 33, 34, 35, and 36) and window opening (Photo #14) capped with stone shelf. The latter may have been used for exchange of utensils and food.

Unfortunately not enough of the jambs of the windowed openings on the west elevation remain to determine size and position of the wood frames. In other parts of the building, however, the grilled openings had vertical wooden bars behind which the stone head and jambs were rabbeted to accommodate a shutter of some kind as a means of keeping out the weather. (See Drawing #10 and Photo #18). It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that the rooms off which these penetrations open were used for storage only.

Much of the brick walk at west end has been destroyed, but enough remains to trace its original extent and pattern (Photo #37).

The presence of the wide brick gutter (Photo #39) on north side near the east corner leads to the conclusion that no cornice

gutters existed at least on this face of this wing. Gutters were, however, used on the west wing for marks of the down epouts (Photo 40 and 41) are still visible in the stucco face and tin down-epout strape are etill to be seen projecting from under the stucco. Drawing #3 locates these down-epouts.

The rough stone platform and brick soldier courses in front of steps to central portico foundation (Photo #42) have so far evaded a satisfsfactory solution.

The fragment of sandstone drum shown on Drswing #14 may, if accepted as part of one of the portico columns, lead to the pertinent assumption that columne and pilssters were not fluted.

Because eo little of first floor walls still stand, the plan ie largely conjectural. Enough remains, however, to locate many pertinent features. Chief among the details reconstructable are the window eizes and locations, splayed jamb details, and size and extent of portico. Marble tile eight inches square (Photo #42) (See Drawing #3) and a marble border ten inches wide were found in ruins of this unit and are shown on the res-tored plan of first floor. The rest of the portico plan is baeced on the early photograph (See Photos #4 and 44). The fireplaces in the rooms of the west wing are located by position of masonry walls below. The rooms in the central wing are lsd out so that they are eymmetrical about the fireplaces; the positions of the basement walls eustain such a disposition. Although no evidence of

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the partition between the hall and east room appears in Photo #45, had not the architect of the building intended the fireplace to be centered on a room so divided, he would have undoubtedly left it in the center of the wing in a position similar to the fireplace at the opposite end. It is probable the partition in question was removed later to enlarge the room when the building was enlarged and remodeled as a club house (Photo #46).

Note that on the east end of the first floor plan taken from the book on Georgian Architecture the substitution of windows in place of a door and the location of chimney on central axis is in error as proved by photographs # 11 and 45. These plans also show a stairway in southeast part of west wing which would interfere with an important door located at this point, one jamb of which exists today. This door is also shown on Photo #11. The location of doorway in northwest corner of central wing is also wrong, for part of one jamb exists today and is shown correctly on Drawings #3 and 8 (Photo #47). It is also doubtful if the first floor fireplace in northwest corner of west wing could be carried as shown. Although the door shown at northeast corner of west wing once existed (Photo #44 and 48), the photograph of the drawing of the early buildings (Photo #3) shows this as a window and appears more logical. The fragile exterior steps from this entrance also seem out of character with the other sturdy and scholarly features of the building. If a brick terrace ever existed as shown on these early drawings in the section designated

as a later addition, it was at one time enclosed by brick walls.
(See Photos #45 and 46.) However, the presence of such a terrace is questionable, for no fill of any kind sufficient to support the floor of such a terrace is in evidence today.

Contrary to the window detail shown on the Georgian Architecture drawing in which the window is sunk into a stuccoed panel, Photos #3 and 44 show the treatment as perfectly plain except for carved stone lintel. The remnants of one window jamb shown on Drawing #4 substantiate this fact and also provide us with the information that these windows had a splayed jamb.

The size of the tile on portico floor is subject to doubt also, for although many eight inch square tile were found in this vicinity, none the size shown on the Georgian Architecture plane were in evidence. The plan of this temple-portico as shown in these drawings is also quite obviously different from that indicated on Photo #6. The width of the steps shown on these early drawings is also in error for the foundations are still there and are much narrower (See Drawing #3).

On Drawing #4 the front elevation of the main building is shown in a restored state. With the exception of the portico, cornice details, treatment of the main entrance, and size of chimneys, there is sufficient architectural evidence in the ruins to restore this elevation authentically. These features as restored are based on early photographs and drawings, architectural evidences in the ruins, and cognizance of the fact that the Roman influence

was predominant in the early stages of the Claesical Revival.

The publication "Georgian Architecture" is in many respects at variance with certain of these architectural features. It is difficult to determine upon what evidences some of the information they present is based, for Photo #44 is contemporary with the drawings and disagrees in this particular elevation with the reepeat to sidelights of doorway, treatment about doorway, size of basement windows and details of first floor windows in central section, the main cornice and the portico details.

At the north end, with the exception of details of the doorway and the substitution of a door for a window at the south end, this last survey is in general agreement (Photo #49). The presence of the south door is definitely proved by remnante of jambs and stone sill, although door panel details and transom are subject to conjecture. The width of the door at the north end of this elevation (Photo 50), as shown on these later drawinge, is also determined by location of mortise holes in the stone sill which is still in place. That this door never was provided with side lights as shown in the Georgian Architecture drawings is certain, for by referring to basement floor plan it is quite obvious that there is not enough room for such openings. Nor is there any evidence of an arch in stucco above water table in Photo #44. This latter feature may, however, have been etuccoed over as were the decorative stone jack arches believed to have been on this elevation.

The greater part of the south elevation is shown restored without the aid of photographs (Photo #51) or other pertinent information; Lintels of length (Photo #53) shown over windows of central section were found, however, and shed some doubt on the paneled treatment shown on Georgian House drawings. Because it is assumed these windows opened on the same room as those on north elevation, the vertical location is the same. The standing ruine of the south end of west wing provide us with the vertical height of the cornice and its vertical dimension. The smooth plaster band as shown on the Georgian House drawings was probably there when these earlier drawings were made. Today, however, that plaster has fallen off and the nailing blocks are visible (See Photo #51). Photo #44 will prove the height of cornice previously shown is in error. The entrance doorway in central section is purely conjectural. The vertical dimensions of the horizontal lines in the upper members of the carved nosed stone sill agree perfectly with the same lines on the water table. Since the floor line and the top of the sill should be set at the same level, it is believed the two were related as shown, on the rear elevation (Drawing #6).

Sufficient information exists to prove that at one time the east elevation appeared as shown on Drawing #7. The left door jamb and both sections of the water table returns are still here in place (Photo #40). The basement window with the exception of wood grille bars is also in excellent state of preservation.

Photo #11 also shows the doorway with its arched head. Two

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sections of a stone archivolt similar to that shown in photo and as shown on drawings were found in this locality. The enclosed side of north portico is shown on Photo #3. Photos #11, 45, and 46 show the east end of central section with doorway as shown and disproves fenestration indicated in Georgian House drawings. The new plan has already demonstrated the impossibility of locating chimney on the long axis of central wing at this end.

Section A-A on Drawing #8 shows the relative elevations of basement floors in main building and east dependency. Because the materials and construction details are identical in both buildings, the only thing that can be inferred is that the first floor level in the smaller building was proportionately much lower.

Section B-B on same sheet offers some rather valuable information in the way of possible location of the original basement to first floor stairway. A diagrammatic interpretation of evidence is shown. The location of one interior first floor door jamb is also to be obtained from this section.

Section C-C on this drawing introduces what may have been an innovation in room insulation and reflects an understanding of principles of this kind used successfully for generations in Italy. This is simply a sealed air space between the attic floor and the ceiling of the rooms below. Just under the ceiling line is an unplastered band of masonry which may well have been width and location of an interior plaster or wood cornice. The splayed

jamb below stool height in west window of this section is obviously a latter innovation, for no effort was made below stool originally to conserve amount of cutting, while above the bricks were set to eliminate as much cutting as possible (Photos #58 and 59).

With the exception of the head of stone valuted windows, the notes and details of windows shown on Drawing #10 are self-explanatory. The detail of this type of window, however, is based on Photos #44 and 48.

Observations about the Dutch Oven shown on Drawing #11 are also unnecessary. It is believed the notes and details are sufficiently explanatory. The opening adjacent to the oven, however, is worthy of speculation for the vertical joint extending downward at the end of the soapstone slab (Photo #17) would seem to indicate a larger, lower opening was originally here. Could it have been this central room was once part of a small independent house built earlier than the remainder of the building, and used to house the owner or his possessions while the rest of the building was under construction? Or a simpler and more likely solution was that sill was originally too low and was raised to facilitate the handling of food. Attempts were made to determine these facts but lack of evidence still obscures the solution.

The full size details on Drawing #12 need little explanation with the possible exception of the three-quarter scale detail of impost cap. This may prove to be one of the most pertinent pieces

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of evidences leading to the proof that another wing was intended to symmetrize the main building. This fragment of carved stone was excavated near the east end of the central wing and tallies exactly with the similar carved and stone impost cap returns now in place on both north corners of west wing (Photos #60 and 61). That this piece of stone was ever incorporated in a corresponding east wing is doubtful, but that this stone was cut to serve a purpose similar to its two counterparts seems irrefutable.

The foundation of the largest of the three west dependencies is built of traprock. Above the foundation which extends to first floor level the walls are of soft gray spongy sandstone. (Photo #62). Luckily this dependency preserves enough architectural evidences to establish the facts that it had one and one-half or two stories above a full basement, a first floor entrance at the southeast corner, a basement entrance on the west end (Photo 63), included a ladder or steep set of stairs at the east end (Photo #64) between first and second floors, had facilities for heating in the form of fireplaces on north side, and possibly incorporated an oven in the northwest corner of the basement (Photo #65). The size and spacing of the joists on both floors is also obtainable, as well as the rise and size of stair steps (Photos #49, 50, 51, and 52).

The well shown adjacent to this building and on same drawing may at one time have come up to or above the retaining wall for the cobblestone walk leading thereto would otherwise probably have

taken some other approach (Photo #66).

Examples of building hardware found on the site and believed to have been contemporary with the date of erection of the building are shown on Drawing #15 (See also Photo #54). It is possible, however, that any of the collection might have been fabricated much later. The large flat strap pintles were located in the jambs of the windows on south end of west wing and probably were used to hang shutters (See Drawing #10). The shutter catches probably came from same location, although recovered elsewhere, for there are holes near ends of both stone sills which could accommodate their shafts (Photos #69 and 68).

The profiles of fragments of very decorative plaster - all of which were found in excavating dependency "A" lead us to the conclusion that this building may have been more important than its size would at first seem to indicate. It may possibly have been the famous and elusive summer house. In fact, if we go to European examples for precedent in the treatment of this structure, as we must when faced with similar problems in the main building, precedent for handsome painted and decorative plaster work is to be found a plenty. This may be the long missing link in the still visible chain of evidences which help us to reconstruct this famous old plantation.

Stuart N. Gannett

COLOR CHART

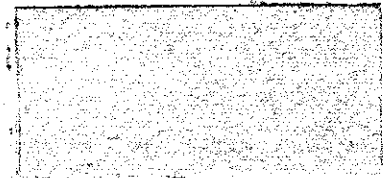
HABS

D.C.

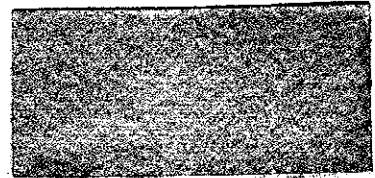
WASH

131-

Color on flat plaster surface
found at point #15



Color of large plaster moulding No. #10
found at point #10



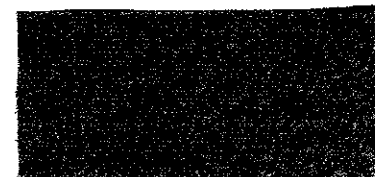
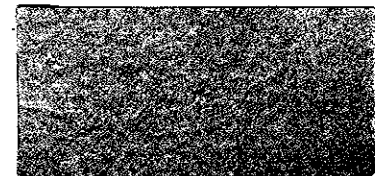
Color of plaster mouldings Nos. #12, 10, 14
found at points #12, 10, 14
respectively



Trap rock color variation
of this shade



Bricks throughout foundation
vary between these shades



Color of plaster moulding No. #13
found at point #13

